

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 HEW-02 AGR-05 EB-07 PC-01 SCS-03 /078 W

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R 262109Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3304

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: SINAMOS AND THE ADVENTISTS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ON DECEMBER 23, GOVERNMENT-OWNED CRONICA FRONT-PAGED SINAMOS' DECISION TO SUSPEND THE AMAZON JUNGLE OR OFASA (OBRA FILANTROPICA ADVENTISTA EN SUDAMERICA) ACTIVITIES OF THE ADVENTISTS. ACCORDING TO CRONICA, SINAMOS WAS BASING ITS DECISION ON THE JUNE 24 JUNGLE DEVELOPMENT LAW, WHICH APPARENTLY GIVES SINAMOS - THE STATE'S SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AGENCY - CERTAIN POWERS IN JUNGLE COMMUNITIES. REPORTEDLY, NATIVES OF A COMMUNITY NEAR PUCALLPA ACCUSED OFASA OF DIVIDING THEM BY FAVORING ADVENTISTS OVER CATHOLICS IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF CHARITY. CRONICA NOTED THAT OFASA ALSO OPERATES IN LIMA'S SLUM SETTLEMENTS, WHERE SIMILAR COMPLAINTS HAVE ARISEN.

2. DECEMBER 24 CRONICA CARRIED A DENIAL BY OFASA THAT ITS ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN SUSPENDED BY SINAMOS OR THAT OFASA ENGAGED IN ANY FORM OF DISCRIMINATION. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT OFASA DISTRIBUTES FOOD, CLOTHING, AND MEDICINE IN PERU; THE FOOD COMES FROM USAID. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. COMMENT: VARIOUS FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS, FROM THE RECENTLY-EXPELLED PEACE CORPS TO THE BOY SCOUTS AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY GROUPS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY FREQUENT TARGETS OF SINAMOS'

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IDEOLOGUES, WHO OBJECT TO WHAT THEY TERM ALIENATING, PRIMARILY

WESTERN INFLUENCES.

UNDER NOVEMBER 14 SUPREME DECREE, ALL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MUST OBTAIN SUPREME RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING THEIR OPERATIONS. APPARENTLY, NO SUCH RESOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED YET, LEADING TO OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS FOR SOME OF THE AGENCIES, E.G. THE DUTY FREE CLEARANCE OF FOODSTUFFS. GOP AUDITORS ARE SCRUTINIZING FOREIGN FOUNDATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, POSSIBLY TO JUSTIFY THE ISSUANCE OR DENIAL OF PERMISSION TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS. UNTIL THE GOP ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS BECOMES CLEARER, PRESUMABLY EACH WILL CARRY ON ITS BUSINESS NORMALLY, ALBEIT UNCERTAINLY.

BARNEBEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DISCRIMINATION, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LIMA10857
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740375-0304
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741210/aaaaaika.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINAMOS AND THE ADVENTISTS
TAGS: EAID, PINT, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005